

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-56 (Canceled).

57 (Currently Amended). A tool system comprising

a trocar instrument including a trocar handle with [a] first and second finger gripping surfaces mutually sized and laterally spaced apart a first distance for gripping simultaneously by an index finger and a little finger of a hand, that includes the trocar handle including a recess interrupting continuity of between the first and second finger gripping surfaces,

~~a cannula instrument including a bore sized to accommodate the trocar instrument to form a composite instrument,~~ the cannula instrument including a cannula handle with [a] third and fourth finger gripping surfaces mutually sized and laterally spaced apart a second distance less than the first distance for gripping simultaneously by two adjacent fingers of a hand that, and

the cannula instrument including a bore sized to accommodate passage of the trocar instrument to form a composite instrument, the cannula handle nesting within the recess when the composite instrument is formed[,] nests within the recess to fill the interruption and to form a composite handle continuous composite finger gripping surface for the composite instrument comprising the first, second, third and fourth finger gripping surfaces of the trocar instrument and cannula handles resting in an adjacent and generally coplanar relationship with the finger gripping surface of the cannula instrument for grasping by gripping simultaneously the first finger gripping surface by an index finger of a hand, the second finger gripping surface by a little finger of the hand, the third finger gripping surface by a ring finger of the hand, and the fourth finger gripping surface by a middle finger of the hand, to transmit rotational and/or longitudinal forces to the composite instrument sufficient to advance the composite instrument through tissue and/or bone.

58 to 64 (Canceled)

65 (Previously Presented). A tool according to claim 57

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to receive a striking force.

66 to 68 (Canceled).

69 (Currently Amended). A tool system according to claim 57

wherein the ~~finger gripping surface of the trocar instrument~~ handle includes a first securing element in the recess, and

wherein the ~~finger gripping surface of the cannula instrument handle~~ includes a second securing element sized and configured to engage the second securing element when the composite instrument is formed to prevent independent rotation of the trocac and cannula instruments.

70 (Previously Presented). A tool system according to claim 69

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements includes a groove.

71 (Previously Presented). A tool system according to claim 69

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements includes a key for mating with a groove.

72 to 80 (Canceled).

81 (Currently Amended). A surgical tool system comprising

a first functional instrument including a first functional handle with [a] first and second finger gripping surfaces mutually sized and laterally spaced apart a first distance for gripping simultaneously by an index finger and a little finger of a hand, that includes the first functional handle including a recess interrupting continuity of between the first and second finger gripping surfaces,

a second functional instrument ~~including a bore sized to accommodate the first functional instrument to form a composite instrument, the second functional instrument~~ including a second functional handle with [a] third and fourth finger gripping surfaces mutually sized and laterally spaced apart a second distance less than the first distance for gripping simultaneously by two adjacent fingers of a hand that, and

the second functional instrument including a bore sized to accommodate passage of the first functional instrument to form a composite instrument, the second functional handle nesting within the recess when the composite instrument is formed, ~~rests within the recess to fill the interruption and to form a composite handle continuous composite finger gripping surface for the composite instrument comprising the first, second, third and fourth~~ finger gripping surfaces of the first and second functional instrument handles resting in an adjacent and generally coplanar relationship with the finger gripping surface of the second functional instrument for grasping by gripping simultaneously the first finger gripping surface by an index finger of a hand, the second finger gripping surface by a little finger of the hand, the third finger gripping surface by a ring finger

of the hand, and the fourth finger gripping surface by a middle finger of the hand, to transmit rotational and/or longitudinal forces to the composite instrument.

82 (Currently Amended). A surgical tool system according to claim 81

wherein the ~~finger gripping surface of the first functional instrument~~ handle includes a first securing element in the recess, and

wherein the ~~finger gripping surface of the second functional instrument~~ handle includes a second securing element sized and configured to engage the second securing element when the composite instrument is formed to prevent independent rotation of the first and second functional instruments.

83 (Previously Presented). A surgical tool system according to claim 82

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements includes a groove.

84 (Previously Presented). A surgical tool system according to claim 82

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements includes a key for mating with a groove.